(b) Names of Pyrazolone group of drugs marketed in the country are Phynylbutazone, Oxyphenbutazone and Analgin.

(c) It may aggravate the tendency to haemorrhage and agranulocy-tosis is reported to be one of the adverse reactions to these drugs.

(d) to (f) The experts consulted had opined that Phenylbutazone/Oxyphenbutazone are drugs of choice in certain musculoskeletal disorders such as ankylosing pondyliti and gouty arthrisis. Based on risk-benefit consideration, Drugs Technical Advisory Board did not recommend withdrawal of Analgin.

Production of blood products in the country

763. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated annual amount of blood products produced in the country and what amount of blood products are being imported annually;

(b) whether some blood products were recently found positive for HIV anti-bodies with the possibility of leading to AIDS from different parts of the country; and

(c) what are the principles/guidelines, if any, laid down by Government for the production of blood products in the country and what is the method to ensure that the blood products are produced strictly according to the guidelines before they are marketed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) The annual estimated turnover of blood products produced in the country is about 8 crores and blood products imported during April, 1988 to December, 1988 are valued at Rs. 32.75 lakhs.

(b) Some of the blood products on testing were reported to be positive for HIV anti bodies. Although these products may not be infectious yet as a matter of abundant caution, all products from blood/placenta manufactured till date have been asked to be destroyed. Wide publicity has been given that the persons who might have taken these products during the last 2 years to get their blood tested for HIV anti bodies at the nearest located AIDS surveillance centre.

(c) The guidelines include testing of each bleeding and pooled plasma so that only blood/plasma free from HIV anti-bodies is used for manufacturing blood/plasma products. The manufacturers are required to adopt Cohn-Oncley and/or chromatographic techniques including steps to ensure inactivation or viruses in the blood/placenta preparations. The methods suggested include verucidal techniques in the processing by using suitable detergent or heat method upto 60°C for ten hours.

The manufacturers will be allowed to resume production by the state licensing authorities only after they comply with the guidelines given.

Sale of T.V. Decoders purchased from France

764. SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ET&T Ltd., a public sector undertaking under the Department of Electronics imported about ten thousand T.V. decoders about years back;

(b) if so, the number of these decoders which have been sold so far, stating the market value of the

sale and loss, if any, suffered by their sale;

(c) what according to the market surveys made by ET&T is the application and quantity required for these items in the country;

(d) what are the details of the recommendations of the ET&T team which went abroad to finalise procurement of T.V. decoders; and

(e) what is the total quantity of T.V. decoders initially recommended by the Ministry of I&B and what steps are contemplated by the Government to sell the remaining T.V. decoders to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. 10,500 TV decoders were imported by Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation Ltd. (ET&T) during October-November, 1985.

(b) Out of 10,500 TV decoders purchased by ET&T, the number of TV decoders sold so far is about 300. These decoders were sold at the minimum price of Rs. 2762/- each, excluding local taxes. No loss has been suffered on its sale.

(c) Doordarshan decided to introduce a Teletext Service which is designed to transmit vital textual information of immediate interest to the public, banking community, financial institution, etc. by the broadcasting mode. The service was to be telecast along with the normal TV signal for display on TV screen retrievable with the help of a 'decoders'. An assessment of the likely demand of the decoders was made in consultation with the public sector undertakings manufacturing TVs and the representatives of Indian TV Manufacturers' Association. Hence, no market survey was carried out by ET&T.

(d) A comparative study of different Teletext Systems available in various countries was made. The systems in USA and Canada were considered technically in-compatible as they operated on a different TV transmission system from that in vogue in India. The systems in U.K., France and Japan were studied by an inter-ministerial delegation of experts which included representatives of public sector undertakings. Based on this study, it was decided to adopt the French system, 'Antiope' as it was considered to the most suitable for adoption by Doordarshan. This system also had the flexibility of transmitting characters in mosaic graphic form which gives it an in built flexibility of transmitting information in Indian scripts also.

The decoders were imported from M/s. Sofratev, France, a French Government Undertaking which was an umbrella organisation for supplying the hardware, its installation, commissioning and training of Doordarshan Personnel for operating the system. It was also decided that the import of these decoders should be canalised through ET&T and ET&T was asked to effect the imports.

In pursuance of this, ET&T deputed an officer to France to finalise the shipment details etc. regarding the import just before placing the formal order.

(e) Minister of Information and Broadcasting had indicated the requirement to import 15,000 TV decoders.

Steps are continuously being taken to improve the Teletext services with a view to make it more popular. Simultaneously, developmental and marketing efforts are being made to enhance acceptability of various users viz. Hotels, Airlines, Travel Agents, Banks, Shares & Stock Brokers etc.

With the above, it is expected that the sale of decoders at present lying with ET&T would pick up.

Setting up of plants to produce fuel and Zircaloy

765. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nuclear Fuel Complex is going to set up large plants to produce Fuel and zircaloy components for nuclear power reactors in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof with their location and estimated cost; and

(c) by when these plants are likely to start production and what technology would be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nuclear Fuel Complex is going to set up projects to produce fuel and zircaloy components for the nuclear power programme in the country. These plants will be located at Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, Turamdih (Bihar) and Palayakayal (Tamil Nadu) at a total estimated cost of Rs. 1200/- crores.

(c) The plants are expected to go into production progressively from 1993. Indigenous technology will be used for setting up these plants.

Blood testing of patients administered with blood products

766. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Directorate General of Health Services has appealed to the general public all over country to get their blood tested in case they had taken blood products during the last 2 years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the AIIMS, New Delhi has been able to contract all the patients whom the vaccine was administered and their blood tested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes,

(b) and (c) HIV antibodies were detected in some of the products implying that some of the donors who donated blood were sero-positive. As a matter of abundant precaution, it has been decided that all such blood products be withdrawan and destroyed. An appeal has been made that all persons who have taken blood products during the last two years may contact the nearest surveillance centre for screening for HIV infection.

No report has yet been received from the surveillance centres.

Racket in purchase of drugs by the Central Medicines Supplies Directorate

767. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Times of India dated the 21st March, 1989 regarding racket in the purchase of drugs by the Central Medicines supplies Directorate from a black listed firm;

(b) if so, what is the outcome there-made any inquiry into the matter; and

(c) if so, what is the outcome thereof, stating the action taken/proposed